

Message Text

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11/41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 INRE-00 COA-02 DLOS-07 SSO-00

NSCE-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00

EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20

STR-08 TRSE-00 IO-14 DRC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 /196 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4319

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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USNATO PRIORITY 3066

USUN PRIORITY 1540

EUCOM PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY ECJ-2 PRIORITY

CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4126

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 4126 VICE 4216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, TU, GR

SUBJ: GOT ANNOUNCES OIL EXPLOARTION EFFORTS BY

NAVY HYDROGRAPHIC VESSEL

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EUCOM FOR POLAD AND J-2

REF: ANKARA 4074

SUMMARY: GOT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT NAVY HYDROGRAPHIC VESSEL SAILING TODAY TO PARTICIPATE IN EXPLORATION FOR OIL IN AREA OF CONTINENTAL SHELF CLAIMED BY BOTH TURKEY AND GREECE. FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL VERIFIES THAT EXPLORATORY EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY, AND DISCOUNTS RECENT GREEK NOTE AS NOT A MEANINGFUL CONCESSION TO TURKEY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING MAY 27 DISCLOSURE IN PARLIAMENT THAT TPAO (TURKISH PETROLEUM COMPANY) SHIP HAS ALREADY STARTED OIL EXPLORATION IN AEGEAN SEA (REFTEL), STATE RADIO NEWS BORADCAST AT 1 P.M. TODAY (MAY 29 CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT BY MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES KAYRA THAT A NAVY HYDORGRAPHY AND OCEANOGRAPHY VESSEL WOULD DEPART AT 3 P.M. TODAY FROM ISTANBUL ALSO TO EXPLORE FOR OIL. VESSEL, ACCORDING TO RADIO, WILL UNDERTAKE MAGENTOMETRIC WORK, AND SEISMIC WORK WILL BEGIN IN SECOND HALF OF JUNE. OIL DRILLING REPORTEDLY WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER COMPLETION AND EVALUATION OF THESE TWO STAGES.

2. IN CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH EMBASSY OFFICER, MFA OFFICIAL VERIFIED IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT TURKEY IS CONDUCTING EXPLORATORY WORK WITH VESSELS IN DISPUTED CONTINENTAL SHELF AREA OF EASTERN AEGEAN AND THAT TURK NAVY "WOULD BE" ASSISTING THIS EFFORT. HE BRUSHED ASIDE QUIERY WHETHER TPAO IN FACT OWNED SHIP SUITABLE FOR SEISMIC STUDIES WITH REMARK THAT GOT COULD NOT WAIT FOR SIGNING OF CONTRACT WITH FOREIGN FIRMS TO EXPLORE CONTINENTAL SHELF. TURKEY, WHICH HAD OBTAINED EARLIER STUDIES BY FOREIGN COMPANIES, WOULD IN MEANTIME DO WHAT IT COULD WITH ITS OWN RESOURECES. THERE WAS MUCH TO BE LEARNED ABOUT UNDERSEA AREA, HE SAID, REQUIRING FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC EFFORTS ALIKE.

3. WE POINTED TO CINCIDENCE OF APPARENT EASING OF TURK-GREEK TENSIONS AS RESULT OF GOG NOTE ON CONTINENTAL SHELF (ANKARA 4055) AND POSSIBLE INCREASING OF TENSIONS WHICH COULD ACCOMPANY GOT'S ANNOUNCED EXPLORATION IN EASTERN AEGEAN. MFA OFFICIAAL RESPONDED THAT TENTATIVE MFA VIEW IS THAT GREEK NOTE CONFIDENTIAL

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(TEXT BEING SENT BY SEPTTEL) DID NOT RPT NOT OFFER SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS, BUT MERELY DELIMITATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF IN ACCORDANCE WITH GREEK CLAIMS. PRIMIN ECEVIT'S OPTIMISTIC COMMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING, THERE APPEARED TO BE NOTHING NEW IN GREEK POSITION. FURTHERMORE GREECE, OFFICIAL CLAIMED, HAS "FOR YEARS" BEEN CONDUCTING EXPLORATORY WORK IN DISPUTED AREA, AND SO TURKEY'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO TAKE SIMILAR STEPS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PROTECTION

OF ITS RIGHTS AND NOT A PROVOCATION. OFFICIAL CONCLUDED WITH
OBSERVATION THAT TURK MILITARY IN PARTICULAR IS DETERMINED
TO PROTECT WHAT IT CONSIDERS ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN.

4. COMMENT:DESPITE PUBLIC EASING OF TENSION RESULT
ECEVIT'S ANNOUNCEMENT UNDERSTANDING WITH GREECE (ANKARA 4055),
GOT STILL APPEARS DETERMINE PRESS ITS AEGEAN CLAIMS FORCE-
FULLY. TO US, THIS, TOGETHER WITH TOUGH GOG ATTITUDE REPORTED
ATHENS 3177, SUGGESTS TROUBLE OVER AEGEAN FAR FROM OVER. SPAIN

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